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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,302	09/23/2003	Hideori Shindoh	243008US2	9279
22850 7590 06/09/2008 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER NGUYEN, ALLEN H				
ART UNIT 2625		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 06/09/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,302

Applicant(s)

SHINDOH ET AL.

Examiner

ALLEN H. NGUYEN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

- This office action is responsive to the following communication:
Amendment filed on 03/31/2008.
- Claims 1-13 are currently pending in the application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/13/2008 has been entered.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 5, 10, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alsop et al. (US 2003/0077561).

Regarding claim 1, Alsop '561 discloses an apparatus (101, fig. 1) for forming an image (i.e., an input device that is configured to image any writing made on the drawing medium, surface or screen; Page 3, paragraph [0029]), in which hardware resources (102/103, fig. 1) for use in the forming of the image are provided, and a program runs in respect of the forming of the image (i.e., the user at whiteboard 101 manually, automatically and/or periodically initiates a software process that refreshes the display; Page 2, paragraph [0016]), said apparatus comprising:

an image data converting unit configured to convert a format of image data from a first format (i.e., the input device may include a format converter that is configured to convert image data between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) to a second format (i.e., this second image is then converted

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by the system into an electronic format, such as a JPEG, GIF, TIFF or other electronic text or image file format; Page 3, paragraph [0034]), said first format and said second format each being one of NFC 1, K4, K8, JPEG, RJ2K, a four-value format, a binary format, an eight-value format, and an MH/MR/MMR format (i.e., at least one of said formats including one of JPEG File Interchange Format, Tag Image File Format (TIFF), MPEG, CCITT H.261 encoded image data and the like; Page 3, paragraph [0029]);

a format unifying unit configured to unify (i.e., the first and second images are then combined by the system to form a composite image; Page 3, paragraph [0035]) a plurality of formats of image data by utilizing said image data converting unit (i.e., a third image onto the composite image to form a new composite image. This new composite image, which may include elements of the first, second and third images, is then captured, converted; Page 3, paragraph [0036]).

Regarding claim 5, Alsop '561 discloses the apparatus (101, fig. 1), wherein said format unifying unit (i.e., the input device may include a format converter that is configured to convert image data between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) unifies the plurality of formats of image data into one of the plurality of formats (i.e., a third image onto the composite image to form a new composite image. This new composite image, which may include elements of the first, second and third images, is then captured, converted; Page 3, paragraph [0036]).

Regarding claim 10, Alsop '561 discloses the apparatus, further comprising a consolidated printing unit (i.e., the input device may include a format converter that is configured to convert image data between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) which consolidates (i.e., a third image onto the composite image to form a new composite image; Page 3, paragraph [0036]) and prints images whose formats are unified by said format unifying unit (i.e., the new composite image is displayed to said first plurality of conference participants on the viewable medium or surface; Page 4, paragraph [0036]).

Regarding claim 12, claim 12 is the method claim of device claim 1. Therefore, method claim 12 is rejected for the reason given in device claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alsop et al. (US 2003/0077561) in view of Tanio (US 5,930,389).

Regarding claim 2, Alsop '561 discloses the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts formats of image data (i.e., the input device

include a format converter that is configured to convert image data between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) used by a printer (i.e., Whiteboard 101 may further include a peripheral printer for electronically generating printed material onto the surface; Page 1, paragraph [0014]).

Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts formats of image data used by a copier, a scanner, and a facsimile.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts formats of image data used by a copier (103, fig. 1), a scanner (109, 110, fig. 1), and a facsimile (i.e., a copier 103 has the transmission/reception function. Therefore, a copier 103 is also having a facsimile; fig. 1, Transmission 103-2, Reception 103-1).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts formats of image data used by a copier, a scanner, and a facsimile, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 3, Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts a format of image data by resizing an image of the image data, compressing the image data, decoding the image data, and attending to multi-value conversion of the image data.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts a format of image data by resizing an image of the image data (i.e., each memory has a memory capacity corresponding to images of an original of the A4 size, by connecting the two memories, images of an original of the A3 size can be handled. Therefore, the conversion CKT has a function of resizing image data; col. 5, lines 35-37, fig. 2A, Frame Memory 201-202), compressing the image data (image compression, col. 9, line 7), decoding the image data (extension, col. 9, line 7), and attending to multi-value conversion of the image data (File ID, fig. 12).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts a format of image data by resizing an image of the image data, compressing the image data, decoding the image data, and attending to multi-value conversion of the image data, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print

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output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 4, Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts the format of image data by hardware.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit (101, fig. 1) converts the format of image data by hardware (the color space converting process can be executed by a hardware circuit, col. 10, lines 48-49, fig. 2B).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said image data converting unit converts the format of image data by hardware, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 6, Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit includes a conversion executing unit which converts the image data by utilizing said image data converting unit according to a unified format.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig.1) includes a conversion executing unit which converts the image data by utilizing said image data converting unit according to a unified format (image input/output tasks of different control types such as CLC type, FS type, and the like can be operated according to the connected device, col. 10, lines 11-13).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit includes a conversion executing unit which converts the image data by utilizing said image data converting unit according to a unified format, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 7, Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit includes a plurality of conversion executing units, one of which is said conversion executing unit, and others of which are identical to said conversion executing unit.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) includes a plurality of conversion executing units (223, 224, fig. 2A), one of which is said conversion executing unit (303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 of 223, fig. 2A), and others of which are identical to said conversion executing unit (303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 of 224, fig. 2A).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit includes a plurality of conversion executing units, one of which is said conversion executing unit, and others of which are identical to said conversion executing unit, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 8, Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit assigns the plurality of conversion executing units to respective images, thereby converting image data of the images.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) assigns the plurality of conversion executing units (the masking color processing circuit 305, fig. 2A) to respective images (the masking color processing circuit 305 executes image editing processes such as masking, UCR operating process, and the like according to the color reproducing characteristics of the color copying apparatus 103, col. 6, lines 29-32), thereby converting image data of the images (in order to accurately reconstruct the image, col. 6, line 33).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit assigns the plurality of conversion executing units to respective images, thereby converting image data of the images, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 9, Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein any given one of said conversion executing units converts image data of a corresponding one of the images by utilizing said image data converting unit if a format of the image data of the corresponding one of the images is different from the unified format.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein any given one (color conversion circuit 304, fig. 2A) of said conversion executing units converts image data of a corresponding one of the images (in case of layout-printing three images of different image types, col. 11, lines 56-57, fig. 17A) by utilizing said image data converting unit if a format of the image data of the corresponding one of the images is different from the unified format (fig. 17B).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein any given one of said conversion executing units converts image data of a corresponding one of the images by utilizing said image data converting unit if a format of the image data of the corresponding one of the images is different from the unified format, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from

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another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 11, Alsop '561 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit notifies said consolidated printed unit that image data is ready for consolidated printing if said format unifying unit completes unification of the formats of image data after conversion of at least one of the formats or because of no need for conversion of at least one of the formats.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit (101, fig. 1) notifies said consolidated printed unit (CLC103/104, fig. 1) that image data is ready for consolidated printing if said format unifying unit completes unification of the formats of image data after conversion of at least one of the formats or because of no need for conversion of at least one of the formats (in step S50, col. 11, line 20).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The apparatus, wherein said format unifying unit notifies said consolidated printed unit that image data is ready for consolidated printing if said format unifying unit completes unification of the formats of image data after conversion of at least one of the formats or because of no need for conversion of at least one of the formats, since Tanio stated in col.

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1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Regarding claim 13, Alsop '561 discloses : An apparatus (101, fig. 1) for forming an image (i.e., an input device that is configured to image any writing made on the drawing medium, surface or screen; Page 3, paragraph [0029]), in which hardware resources (102/103, fig. 1) for use in the forming of the image are provided, and a program runs in respect of the forming of the image (i.e., the user at whiteboard 101 manually, automatically and/or periodically initiates a software process that refreshes the display; Page 2, paragraph [0016]), said apparatus comprising:

an image data converting unit (i.e., whiteboard combines a printing capability by including scanning device with the stand-alone whiteboard; Page 1, paragraph [0004]) configured to convert a format of image data by hardware (i.e., Information displayed on whiteboard 101 is read and processed at specific time intervals by a processor or other input device whose information is sent to server 104; Page 1, paragraph [0015], fig. 1), each of the image data converting unit configured to convert a format of image data by decoding the image data according to parameters that are set (i.e., an image drawn on the whiteboard is captured and converted into an appropriate electronic format. The image may be

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converted to an image format, such as a bitmap file (BMP), JPEG, GIF, PDF or the like; Page 3, paragraph [0026]), to perform multi-value conversion (i.e., the text could then be stored as an ASCII or other text file format; Page 3, paragraph [0026]) and resizing of the decoded image data to produce processed image data, and to compress the processed image data (i.e., the input device may include an image data compressor. The input device may also include a format converter that is configured to convert image data; Page 3, paragraph [0029]);

a format unifying unit configured to unify a plurality of formats of image data corresponding to respective images by utilizing the image data converting units (i.e., the input device may include a format converter that is configured to convert image data between two different image formats; Page 3, paragraph [0029]) and to assign the conversion executing unit in one-to-one correspondence to respective images to convert the image data corresponding to respective images in parallel into a unified image format (i.e., Signal 203 provides a bi-directional path for the transmission of displayed data from whiteboard 101 to PC 201 and graphics and text to be displayed from PC 201 to whiteboard 101; Page 2, paragraph [0025], fig. 2).

Also, '561 does not explicitly show the format unifying unit including a plurality of conversion executing units which correspond to the image data converting units respectively, the format unifying unit configured to set predetermined parameters in the image data converting units.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tanio '389. In particular, Tanio '389 teaches the format

unifying unit including a plurality of conversion executing units (203/209/223/224, fig. 1) which correspond to the image data converting units respectively (i.e., the second CPU 209 can control the scanner and printer which are connected to the outside and can further also perform image processes such as image rotation, image compression; See col. 4, lines 44-47), the format unifying unit configured to set predetermined parameters in the image data converting units (i.e., an initial setting of parameter variables that are used in the control program; Col. 8, lines 51-52).

In view of the above, having the system of Alsop and then given the well-established teaching of Tanio, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Alsop as taught by Tanio to include: The format unifying unit including a plurality of conversion executing units which correspond to the image data converting units respectively, the format unifying unit configured to set predetermined parameters in the image data converting units, since Tanio stated in col. 1, lines 15-20 that such a modification would ensure various kinds of interface devices are connected to such a digital color copying apparatus and a print output can be obtained on the basis of image data from another image input apparatus such as a scanner or the like other than the digital color copying apparatus.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cullen et al. (US 6,592,629) discloses remote document image storage and retrieval system for a multifunctional peripheral.

Sadeh (US 6,697,525) discloses system method and apparatus for performing a transform on a digital image.

Nakamura (US 5,946,456) discloses image formation control device and method for changing information of image forming medium.

He et al. (US 7,366,712) discloses information retrieval center gateway.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALLEN H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on (571)-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/A. H. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 2625